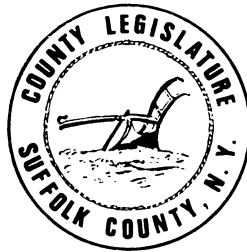


NEWS FROM Legislator

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Legislator Lou D'Amaro Alerts Residents To Watch Out for Scammers

Victims are targeted via Internet, Telephone and In Person

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... March 8, 2016) – According to the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD), every day, scores of people across the United States fall victim to predators that seek to take advantage of those who are trusting and vulnerable. The key to avoiding being scammed is awareness and caution. That's why the SCPD and Suffolk Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) would like to inform you about some of the most common scams that are reported to the Police Department so that you can avoid becoming a victim.

1. **"THIS IS PSE&G . WE WILL SHUT OFF YOUR SERVICE" SCAM** – PSEG Long Island is warning its customers to be on alert for phone and email payment scams, and thieves posing as utility workers, which could put their financial and personal security at risk. PSEG Long Island employees have photo identification badges that must be displayed at all times. If you have any questions about employee's identity, call PSEG Long Island's customer service center at 1-800-490-0025. A customer service representative can verify that an employee has been dispatched to your premises. For the

(more)

latest information about how to identify PSEG Long Island employees and information about the scam, please visit www.psegliny.com/scam

2. **“THIS IS THE IRS. YOU OWE & WE ARE COMING FOR YOU” SCAM** – Some residents of Suffolk County have reported being contacted by a person who claims to be a representative of the Internal Revenue Service. DO NOT provide these individuals with ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION, BANKING INFORMATION, CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS NUMBERS OR SEND THEM MONEY VIA ELECTRONIC WIRE. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, the IRS recommends the following:
 - If you know, or believe, that you owe taxes, contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.
 - If you know that you do not owe taxes and believe that the call was a scam attempt, please call the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.
3. **UNITED NATIONS FUND BENEFICIARY LETTER** – The Computer Crimes Unit has seen incidents where residents of Suffolk County have been contacted via e-mail and advised that they were beneficiaries of a fund being monitored by the United Nations. In order to recoup these funds, they were advised to respond to the e-mail with personal identifying information. By responding to this e-mail and providing this information, you are giving them the tools or “items of information” that will likely make you a victim of identity theft.
4. **HOUSING RENTAL SCAMS** – The Computer Crimes Unit has received a number of inquiries from homeowners and real estate professionals who stated that their listing for a rental has appeared on Craig’s List or other real estate based websites, but the contact information, e-mail address, and phone numbers are not their own. The scammer’s listing, or follow-up e-mail correspondences, usually contain “indicators” that should raise a red flag to potential renters such as misspellings, grammatical errors, odd email addresses, etc. Be especially leery of transactions that ask you to use money orders.
5. **CRAIG’S LIST SCAMS** – Realizing the potential for victimization on its site, Craig’s List has taken the proactive step to include a section on their website that deals with scams. It provides the user guidelines on “how not to become a victim.” It is very important that you read this when buying or selling anything on Craig’s List.

NOTE: If you should choose to meet someone from an auction/resale site in person, do so in a public place, in view of a number of other people, and if at night, in a well-lighted area. Consider bringing another adult with you when you meet an unknown party.

6. **“YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED” SCAMS** – Have you received an e-mail or a “pop-up” stating that you have been selected to receive a high value item for “free”? By clicking on the link contained within the web or e-mail content, you are directed to an “online survey” or to a page where you are asked for personal information. When completing the fields, you are providing all the information necessary for the criminal to victimize you. REMEMBER, if it sounds too good to be true, it often is.
7. **DIVERSION SCAM TO COMMIT BURGLARY/THEFT** – The “diversion burglary” usually involves an attempt to lure a resident from his/her house or apartment by using a ruse. While your attention is diverted, a second person slips into the residence through an unlocked door or window and grabs valuables and leaves before you return to the residence. During the spring and summer months, beware of strangers that engage you outside of your residence (for example, while performing yard work) as all they need to do is distract you while their counterpart sneaks in the door that you likely left unlocked. If something does not feel right, call 911.

For more information about these, others and additional tips on how to protect yourself from becoming a victim, visit: <http://apps.suffolkcountyny.gov/police/scamalert.html>

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Veterans committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.